

YOUR PET NEEDS PROPER ID

Always tag and microchip your dog or cat



Only two percent of the animals entering our shelter are reunited with their owner. All pet owners should provide their pets with proper identification. That includes having your pet wear: an ID tag at all times and a microchip. Your pet should also wear an up-to-date rabies tag.

ID tag

This may seem elementary, but an identification tag can help your pet find its way home. The tag should have your pet's name, your name, your address, and cell phone number. Make sure the information is current. You can have tags made while you wait at many pet supply stores. Experts recommend putting "reward" on the back of your pet's tag, if you are willing to give a reward, that is. This may help encourage the finder to return your pet to you.

The tag should be attached to a proper fitting collar; often dogs slip out of collars because they're so loose. On the other hand, make sure to have a "quick release" or expandable collar for your cat. These collars allow the cat to slip free if it becomes caught on a fence, tree, chair, etc. The collar will obviously come off your cat, but this prevents your cat from hanging himself. Remember, just because your cat is in an indoor-only cat, doesn't mean it can't slip out the door accidentally. It may take a few days, but your cat can become accustomed to wearing a collar.

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small device, roughly the size of a grain of rice containing a unique ID number used to identify your pet in case he or she becomes lost. A microchip is administered much like a vaccination, with a syringe and is injected under the skin in the scruff of the animal's neck. Your pet may feel a pinch, but any pain should be over very quickly. Once the microchip has been inserted, your pet won't notice it's even there.

How does the microchip work?

When your pet is found by a vet's office or animal care and control center, the employees will use a microchip scanner. The scanner will detect the unique ID number associated with your pet's microchip. This unique number is linked to your contact information in the microchip manufacturer's database. The staff will obtain this information and then contact you, letting you know where you can pick up your pet.

How will they know where to reach me?

When your pet's chip was originally implanted, you may have been given the option to register your information with the

manufacturer. Or your information may only be on file with the facility where your pet was chipped.

To increase the likelihood that you will be reunited with your lost pet, we recommend registering with the microchip manufacturer. Additionally, if you ever move or change phone numbers, you will have to update your contact info with the manufacturer so their files are current.

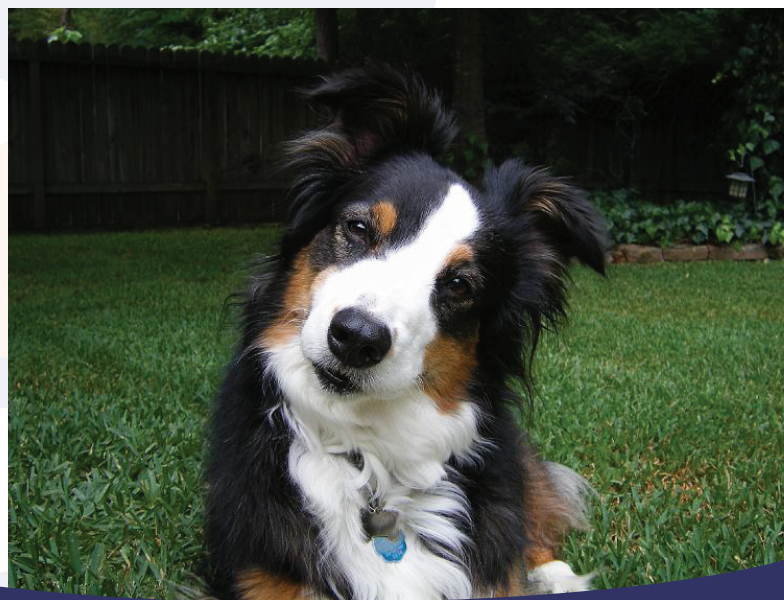
My pet wears an ID tag every day. Why do I need to have him microchipped?

When a pet becomes lost it is not uncommon for his or her collar to fall off. If this occurs, the only ID your pet will have is their microchip because it is permanent and embedded beneath their skin. MCAS microchips animals for \$20. It's money well worth it if you love your pet.

Tattoo

This is an additional option, which involves a vet marking a code on your pet's skin, usually near the groin area. If a shelter notices a tattoo, they will call a database and use the code to receive the owner's address and phone number.

A tattoo is a permanent indication that an animal is owned. Some pet owners tattoo in case their pet happens to be stolen for research. If an animal has a tattoo, laboratories will instantly know that the animal is owned and will be less likely to keep and experiment on that pet.



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